

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 are active in the present invention. Claim 1 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and Claims 2-6, 9 and 11 are amended by the present amendment. Claims 14-17 stand withdrawn in response to a previous restriction response.

Amendments to Claims 2-6, 9 and 11 are supported at least by the originally filed claims and by Figure 7. Thus, Applicants submit that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to; the specification was objected to; Claim 6 was objected to because of an informality; Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over JP 1-152715 to Ichisugi et al. (herein "Ichisugi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,786,980 to Evans and EP 1,096,521 to Ikeda et al. (herein "Ikeda"); Claims 9 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Ichisugi, Evans, Ikeda, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,643,031 to Dispennette et al. (herein "Dispennette"); and Claims 3, 6, 8, 10, and 12 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 3, 6, 8, 10, and 12. Accordingly, Claim 3 is amended to be in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim, Claim 1, which is accordingly canceled. Further, Claims 2, 4-6, 9 and 11 are amended to properly depend from non-canceled claims.

Accordingly, it is believed that independent Claim 3 and claims depending therefrom are allowable.

Further, regarding the objections to the specification, the Abstract is amended to remove legal phraseology, and the specification is amended to include section heading and to

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move the description of related applications from the last paragraph to the first paragraph, in light of suggestions in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested the objections to the specification be withdrawn.

In addition, regarding the objection to the claims, Claim 6 is amended to provide antecedent basis for the term "adhesive layer," in light of comments in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that objection be withdrawn.

In addition, regarding the objections to the drawings, Figures 7-9 are amended to include a "Background Art" label, in light of suggestions in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that drawing objections also be withdrawn.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 7-9. These sheets, which include Figures 7-9, replace the original sheets including Figures 7-9.

Attachment: 3 Replacement Sheets